

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 630

Introduced by Assembly Member Cardenas
(Coauthor: Senator Escutia)

February 19, 1999

An act to add Section ~~51058~~ 51220.3 to the Education Code, relating to instruction, *and making an appropriation therefor.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 630, as amended, Cardenas. Instruction: honors courses: statewide standards.

Under existing law, the governing board of every school district is required to enforce in its schools the courses of study and the use of textbooks and other instructional materials prescribed by the proper authority.

~~This bill would require the State Department of Education to propose statewide standards for courses designated as honors courses by school districts for grades 9 to 12, inclusive. The bill would require these proposed standards to ensure that courses designated as honors courses would provide the depth, breadth, and rigor that is substantially similar to an advanced placement course, a college-level course, or an entry level community college level course. The bill would require the department to report to the Legislature on the proposed standards by January 1, 2001.~~

This bill would prohibit a school district from designating or offering a course of instruction that is characterized as an

honors course unless the school district has submitted a description of the course curricula to the Office of the President of the University of California and has received confirmation from the University of California that the course will be included on the list of honors courses accepted by the University of California for extra grade weighting. The bill would require that any course submitted to the University of California for approval provide the depth, breadth, and rigor that is substantially similar to an advanced placement course, an entry level college course, or a community college level course.

This bill would appropriate an unspecified amount from the General Fund to the State Department of Education for the purpose of assisting school districts in meeting these requirements and to high poverty areas to reimburse school districts for staff time and materials needed to design and submit the honors courses to the University of California. The bill would also appropriate funds to school districts to provide assistance for developing special materials needed for honors course offerings.

This bill would require that the appropriation be included in the amounts appropriated by the state in the 1999–2000 fiscal year for purposes of meeting the state’s minimum funding obligation to school districts and community college districts under Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution for that fiscal year.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: ~~no~~ yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 51058 is added to the Education~~
 2 ~~Code, to read:~~
 3 ~~51058. On or before January 1, 2001, the State~~
 4 ~~Department of Education shall propose statewide~~
 5 ~~standards for courses designated as honors courses by~~
 6 ~~school districts for grades 9 to 12, inclusive. These~~
 7 ~~proposed standards should ensure that courses~~
 8 ~~designated as honors courses would provide the depth,~~
 9 ~~breadth, and rigor that is substantially similar to an~~

~~advanced placement course, a college-level course, or an entry level community college level course. The department shall report to the Legislature on the proposed standards by January 1, 2001. It is the intent of the Legislature that school districts shall not be required to implement these standards until further action is taken by the Legislature.~~

SECTION 1. Section 51220.3 is added to the Education Code, to read:

51220.3. (a) A school district shall not designate or offer a course of instruction that is characterized as an honors course unless the school district has submitted a description of the course curricula to the Office of the President of the University of California and has received confirmation from the University of California that the course will be included on the list of honors courses accepted by the University of California for extra grade weighting. Any course submitted to the University of California for approval shall be required to provide the depth, breadth, and rigor that is substantially similar to an advanced placement course, an entry level college course, or a community college level course.

(b) The amount of _____ dollars (\$____) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the State Department of Education for allocation to school districts for the purpose of assisting school districts in meeting the requirements set forth in subdivision (a), and to high poverty areas to reimburse school districts for additional staff time and materials needed to design honors courses and submit them to the University of California. Funds shall also be available to school districts to provide assistance for developing special materials needed for honors course offerings.

(c) For the purposes of making computations required by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution, the appropriation made by this section shall be deemed to be "General Fund revenues appropriated to school districts," as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 41202 of the Education Code for the 1999–2000 fiscal year and be included within the "total allocations to school districts

1 *and community college districts from General Fund*
2 *proceeds of taxes appropriated pursuant to Article*
3 *XIII B,” as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 41202 of*
4 *the Education Code for the 1999–2000 fiscal year.*

O

